

Beginning in May, the Mille Lacs County Public Works Department, as part of its vegetation management program, will be scheduling roadside vegetation control along all county state aid highways and county roads. Noxious and invasive weeds as well as unwanted brush will be cut and/or treated with herbicide. If your land is south of County State Aid Highway 11 (190<sup>th</sup> Street) and on a county state aid highway or county road, your land may be adjacent to the roadside scheduled for treatment with herbicide.

The goal is to eliminate the noxious, invasive weeds and brush, and to promote grass cover along the roadside. Brush along the road reduces driving visibility, obstructs road signs, and reduces driver reaction time to crossing wildlife. Brush presents maintenance problems by retaining water along the roadbed, obstructing ditches and damaging equipment.

If herbicides are utilized, the Public Works Department uses selective herbicides that control the brush and noxious weeds but *allow grasses to grow unharmed*. All herbicides used have been fully tested and are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

This is a spot spray operation, targeting only undesirable vegetation. Efforts are made to avoid sensitive areas adjacent to the right-of-way, such as tree plantations, ornamental plantings, crops, gardens, front yards, lakes and streams.

A listing of noxious/invasive weeds can be found by visiting the Mille Lacs County website at <http://www.millelacs.mn.gov> / Government / Public Works / Noxious Weed Control.

If you would like to opt-out of spraying in the right-of-way adjacent to your land and agree to control noxious, invasive weeds by other means (such as mowing), please follow these instructions:

1. Fill out the “No Spray” application. This application may be obtained by visiting the Mille Lacs County website at <http://www.millelacs.mn.gov/1285/Noxious-Invasive-Weed-Control> or from the Public Works Department office at 635 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE, Milaca, MN 56353; (320) 983-8201. This form must be submitted annually. Requests must be received no later than 4 PM Friday, May 17, 2019. Requests may be e-mailed to [publicworks@millelacs.mn.gov](mailto:publicworks@millelacs.mn.gov), dropped off in person, or sent in US mail.
2. The Mille Lacs County Public Works Department will provide you with “NO SPRAY” signs. It is your responsibility to post the “NO SPRAY” signs following the conditions specified on the application.
3. Remove the brush and/or noxious weeds within the “no spray” area by May 27, 2019, and continue removal until the end of the growing season. If brush and/or noxious weeds are not removed, the site will be treated either by mowing or herbicide as part of our vegetation management program.

If you have any questions, please contact the Mille Lacs County Public Works Department at (320) 983-8201.